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India Equity Strategy

Government's Strength on Test

- The Government's strength will be put to test over the next week. A key ally the TMC has decided to withdraw support to the UPA coalition in protest against the reform measures proposed last week particularly the 11% increase in diesel prices and allowing FDI in multi-brand retail. The TMC has indicated that its ministers will resign from the Union Cabinet on Friday. The TMC had last weekend set a 72-hour deadline for the withdrawal of these measures.
- Government puts up a brave front. Suggesting that meaningful rollbacks to the reform proposals are unlikely and that they expect to convince the TMC to re-consider its decision.
- The political equation. The TMC has 19 MPs (Members Parliament) in the Lok Sabha. Their withdrawing support would reduce the strength of the UPA to 254 and place it in a minority. That said, the UPA has been getting the support of 'Other Parties' including the SP, BSP, RJD and JDS from outside the coalition.
- Against the backdrop of a potential exit of the NCP from the UPA, the challenge for the Congress leadership will be to ensure that the 'Other Parties, particularly the SP and BSP, continue to support the UPA.
- The stance of the 'Other Parties' and even some of the UPA members on the reform measures has been ambivalent so far. While not suggesting any withdrawal of support to the Government, some of them viz. the DMK, SP and JDS have communicated that they are not in favor of some of the reform measures and will likely participate in the nationwide strike planned by the Opposition to protest these measures today. Public response to the protests will likely influence the stance of some of these Parties on these issues.
- The next 48 hours are expected to be a political roller coaster and the equity markets will likely reflect this volatility. It is worth highlighting that the markets are near resistance levels after the sharp rally over the last two months and fairly un-hedged at this point.
- Near term volatility aside, we envisage three potential scenarios:
 - The Government manages to get support from 'Other Parties' and sustains the reforms – markets will rejoice. This would also embolden the Government to pursue more reforms.
 - The Government backtracks markets will likely give back the gains of the recent past (downside of 5-7%).
 - The political face-off results in fresh elections While negative over the near term, this may not be such a bad outcome over the medium term given the policy logjam that has prevailed for a while given the current structure of Parliament.

Indian Equity Strategy

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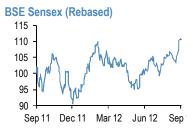
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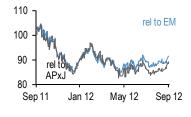
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Source: Bloomberg (rebased performance).

MSCI India relative



Source: MSCI, Bloomberg

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Government's Strength on Test.

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Against the backdrop of a potential exit of the NCP from the UPA, the challenge for the Congress leadership will be to ensure that the 'Other Parties,' particularly the SP and BSP, continue to support the UPA.

Party	# of Seats 205	
Congress		
TMC	19	
DMK	18	
NCP	9	
RLD	5	
NCP	3	
Others	8	
Independent	6	
UPA	273	
SP	22	
BSP	21	
RJD	4	
JDS	3	
Outside Support	50	
Total Support	323	
Parliament Lower House	543	

Table 1: Party wise number of MPs.

Source: Loksabha.nic.in

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Asia Pacific Equity Research 20 September 2012 J.P.Morgan

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Chart 2: Party wise number of MPs.



Source - Bloomberg

Near term volatility aside, we envisage three potential scenarios:

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